

Joshua L. Lightle, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



*Board of Trustees*  
*Mrs. Julie A. Bookman*  
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**EASTSIDE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**45006 30<sup>th</sup> St East**  
**Lancaster, CA 93535**

Dear Eastside Union School District Family:

This letter talks about an immigration law. This law may not apply to you, but we are sending this letter to **ALL** of our families, because we firmly believe that we are one community united by the shared goal of helping our students succeed. We want everyone to be informed about the issues that affect our community.

The government has changed the test that Immigration Officials administer to certain people when they apply to enter the United States. There is a lot of false information about the change to the test and we need to be aware that the rule does not apply to everyone.

Many families are scared about the changes. It is important to know that many programs will not hurt an individual's immigration case. Yet, some families are choosing not to use programs that benefit their children and that are there to safeguard children's health because they are unaware of what benefits are considered Public Charge and which are not considered Public Charge.

If you are facing these decisions, you need to decide what is best for your family. The first step maybe to get legal advice from a lawyer. California has a list of lawyers who give free or low cost advice. We have attached a copy of that list.

It is important to know that :

**Programs that are in the schools will not count against you.** These programs include:

- School Nutrition (free and low cost lunch)
- Public Health Programs in schools
- Medi-Cal and other health insurance and health services (including public assistance for immunizations and for testing and treatment of symptoms of communicable diseases, use of health clinics, short-term rehabilitation services, prenatal care and emergency medical services) other than support for long-term institutional care
- Head Start and State child care programs
- After School Programs
- Tutoring
- MyHealthLA

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**Public benefits used by children who are U.S. citizens cannot be used against parents.**

**High school students should continue using public supports for help with college costs. Financial Aid will not affect the student's or parent's immigration case.**

It is important to sign up for health insurance. Children can receive health insurance until they are 21. Immigrants over the age of 21, can receive insurance in the case of an emergency or if they are having a baby. If you have doubts about receiving benefits, you may want to talk to a lawyer.

This packet includes handouts from the California Department of Health and Human Services and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

We welcome you to contact your school or your district office for more information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margo Deal".

Margo Deal, Director of Student Services